



MIP Offender Survey Report – 2008

Prepared by

EVALCORP
Research & Consulting

for



April 2009

Brought to you by the Montana Community Change Project and the Institute for Public Strategies
Funding provided by the State of Montana, Addictions and Mental Disorders Division
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Introduction

A person under 21 who is driving under the influence, who is drunk, or who has alcohol in their possession is typically charged with a minor in possession of alcohol charge (MIP). Persons who receive a MIP are mandated to attend a class as part of their sentence. The program provides counseling and education around the dangers of drinking and substance use. Participants are asked to complete a survey during the course of their program. This survey, referred to as the Montana MIP Offender Survey, asks participants to share information about the circumstances of their MIP citation such as where they were when cited, how many drinks they consumed the day of their citation, and where they consumed their last drink. Programs across the state collect these data in different ways, and at different times throughout the MIP class (e.g., beginning, middle or end).

This type of survey is being used in various parts of the United States, but typically focuses on DUI arrests. Data from surveys of this type in other jurisdictions has been used to inform those interested in developing environmental prevention campaigns targeted at reducing drinking and driving, along with related issues such as binge and underage drinking. A survey was developed by the Institute for Public Strategies and first implemented in MIP classes across the state in January 2008. This report is a summary of the first year of data (January 2008 to December 2008) and is the first of its kind in the state of Montana.

Recommendations for Use

Data findings from this summary should be used as indicators to help identify areas that can be addressed through policy and program development. These data do not represent all MIP offenses that occurred as participants can elect to participate in the survey. Also, there may be many instances of drinking of persons underage (under 21 years of age) that do not result in a MIP citation, and aspects of these instances will not be captured by these data.

It is suggested that data from this report be used to initiate conversations at local and state levels about the issue of drinking and driving, and what policies and programs may be warranted to address problems identified in this report. As mentioned, other jurisdictions have used data from similar surveys to aid in the development of environmental prevention tactics. For example, in Ventura County, California, the Behavioral Health Department has developed a taskforce to focus on educating bar, club and restaurants that are most commonly mentioned on the survey as the place of last drink. This item from the survey is used to focus the intervention and was selected because of the importance of the information. Someone at the place of last drink served a clearly intoxicated individual their last drink prior to their arrest. This item can help to explore how and why this occurred, and where prevention efforts may need to take place. The environmental prevention strategy devised by the department was to create an intervention to prevent such occurrences from happening again by offering education to alcohol outlet owners, bartenders, servers, and bouncers to recognize the signs of intoxication and use more responsible serving practices (e.g., measured shots versus free pour shots where the amount of liquor is typically greater than a serving). It is expected that using these data will

help to identify problem areas that may be addressed using similar or other environmental prevention approaches that are targeted at underage drinking. Findings contained in this report can be used in similar ways for the counties and state of Montana.

Limitations of Data

Data have several limitations. First, the data are self-report and social desirability may influence participant responses. For example, if participants do not feel that the anonymity of their responses will be ensured, respondents may skip or report false information to look “less bad”. This ultimately renders their response invalid, though this kind of behavior cannot be detected by evaluator and all surveys are included in analyses. Second, the survey is completely voluntary and at this time, there is no tracking of who refused to complete the survey, so it is not possible to determine a response rate to know if responses are generalizable to the group of participants who received a MIP citation and were mandated to attend the program. It is presumed that with a greater number of responses, evaluators can be more confident that responses are applicable to other similar groups, but it is still unclear whether the number is large enough to be representative of underage drinkers. Lastly, surveys are completed without supervision or assistance, and the quality of the data written on the survey is problematic. The survey is scanned by a computer which relies on clear handwriting in order to provide usable data. After reviewing data, it is evident that many participants are not careful to make sure letters or numbers are written properly to ensure accurate scanning. This impacts certain items of the survey far more than others (e.g., reported blood alcohol concentration). Though extensive cleaning of written responses was conducted, data that could not be corrected were excluded from analyses.

Additionally, county-level findings are not presented in this report due to the low number of respondents in certain counties. Data findings for these counties may not be meaningful until a larger sample size is obtained. It is expected that future reports will include county-level findings as the number of respondents increases over time.

Confidentiality of Data

Respondents report the location of their place of last drink when it is a bar, club or restaurant. At this time, these data are not reported to protect the privacy of the alcohol establishments. It is expected that as more data are collected over time, the most commonly mentioned outlets will be identified and shared with local jurisdictions that may choose to use such information to create policies or programs to address any problem behaviors that occur at these establishments. However, these data will only be released when there are at least 50 data points for the jurisdiction. A protocol has been developed for using this data in local jurisdictions and it will be provided to the agencies or individuals when they receive the data.

Overview of Findings

Characteristics of Respondents

In 2008, over 1,500 persons completed the MIP Offender Survey (N=1,520). Most respondents are male (61.7%) and are White (83.4%) (Figure 1). The average age of respondents is 18.0. Most respondents are between the ages of 18 and 20 years old. A small minority of respondents report an age over 21 which is likely due to a delay between the time of the MIP citation and their participation in the program (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Race/Ethnicity of Respondents

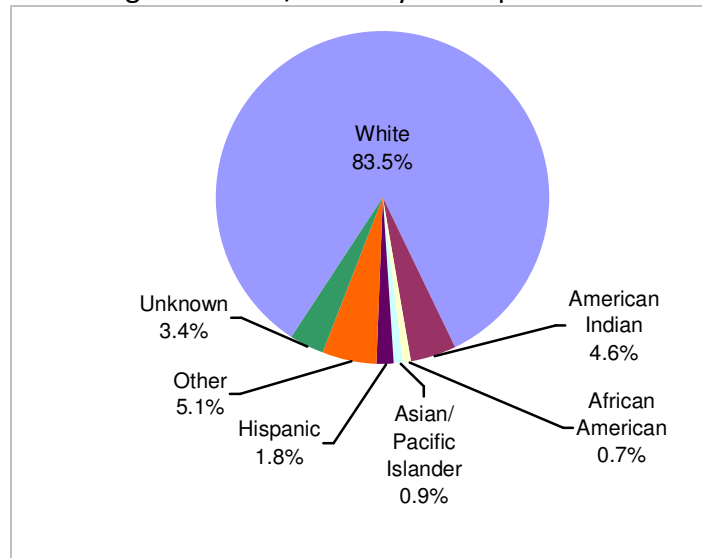
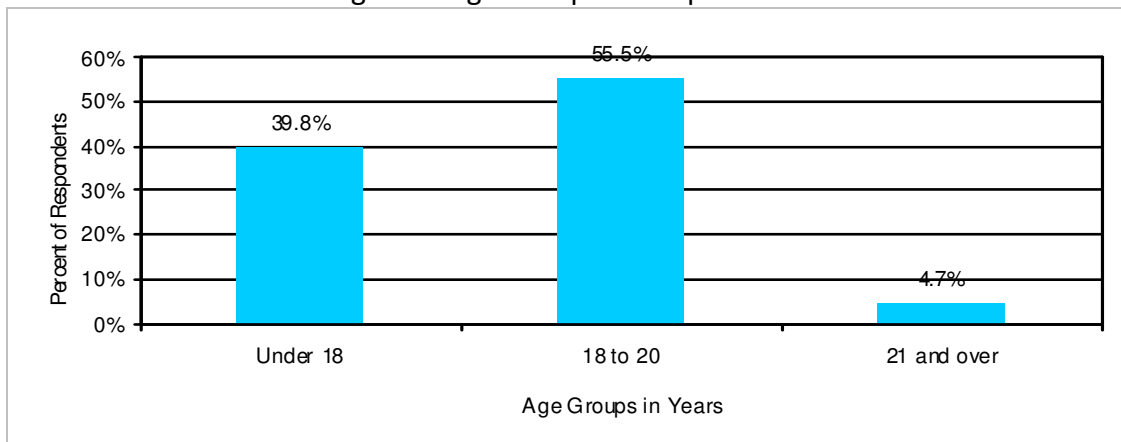


Figure 2. Age Groups of Respondents



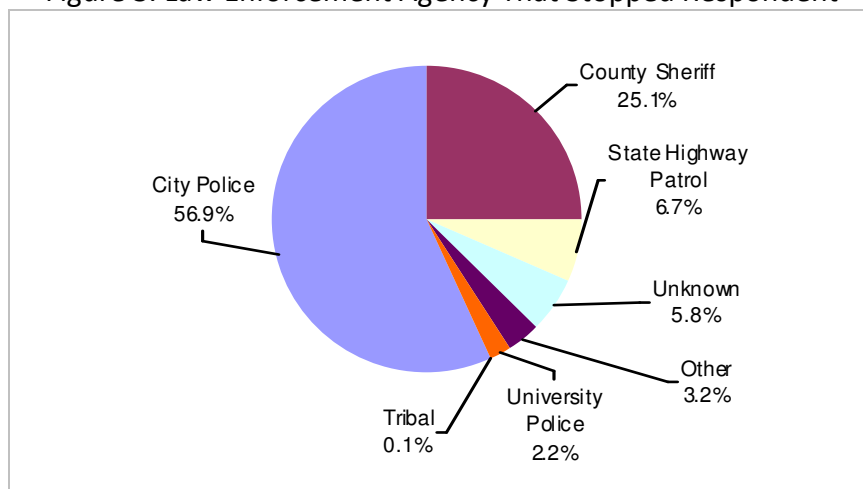
There are two types of programs that MIP offenders participate in: the first and multiple offender programs. A majority of respondents are in the first offender program (79.0%). Participants who are older are more likely to be in the multiple offender program; the average age of persons in first offender program is 17.9 while the average age in the multiple offender

program is 18.5. There is no relationship between the type of offender program and gender or race.

Highlighted Findings

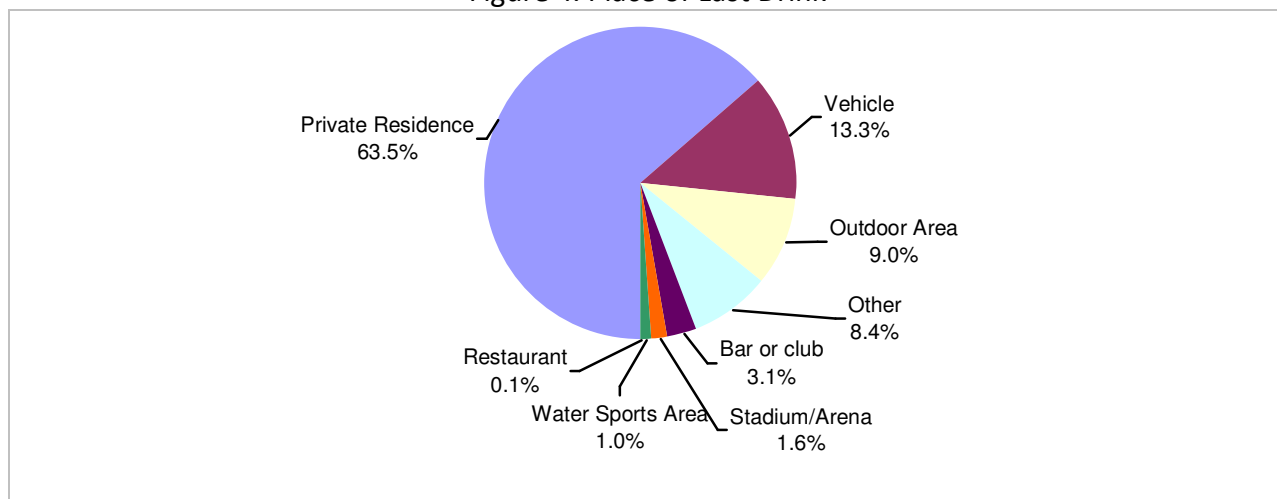
This survey can help to describe the more common circumstances around underage drinking. Contextual factors were explored to examine aspects of the MIP citation. Most often, city police (55.9%) stopped respondents, followed by County Sheriff (25.1%) and the State Highway Patrol (6.7%) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Law Enforcement Agency That Stopped Respondent



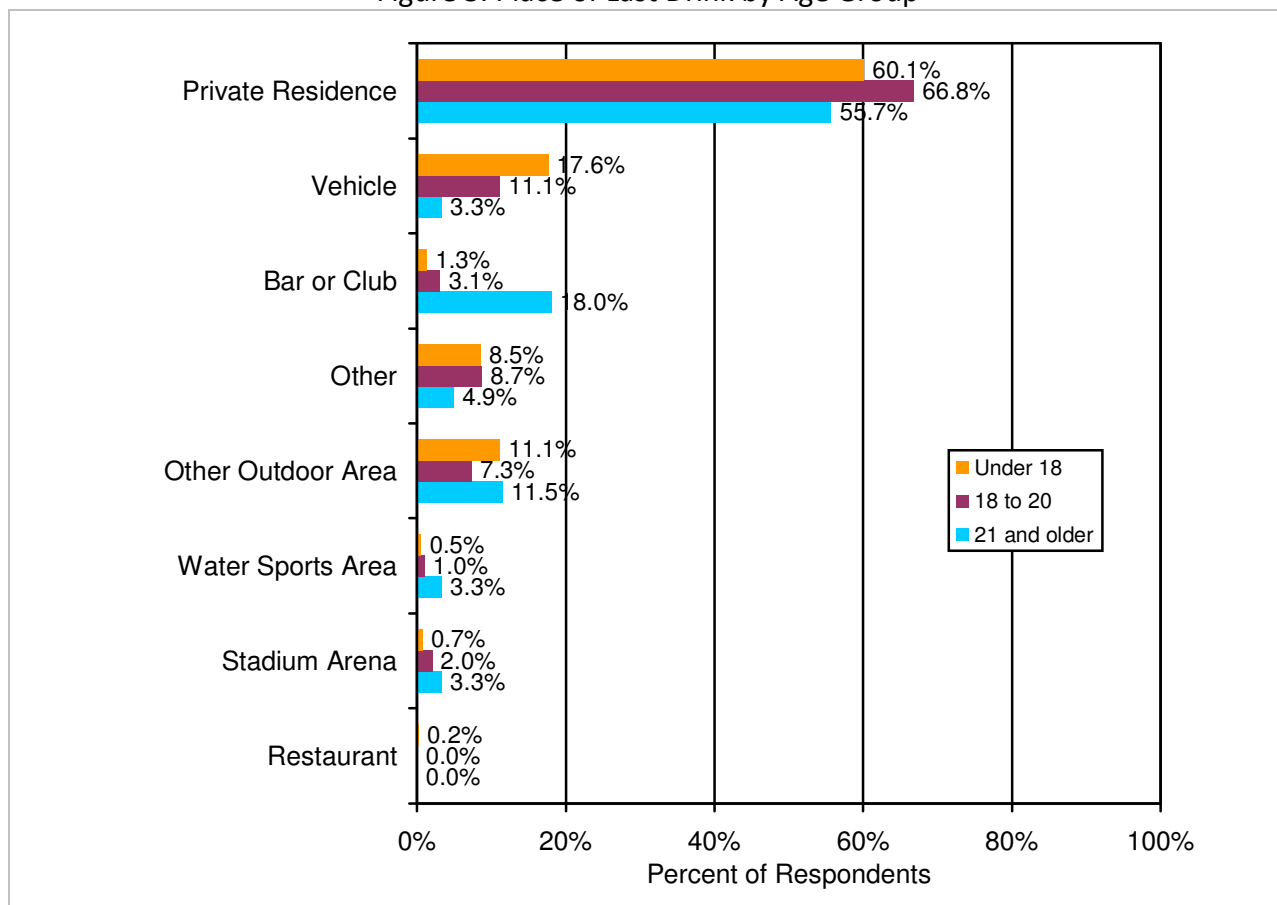
The most common location where respondents consumed their last drink (a.k.a., place of last drink, or POLD) prior to their MIP citation is a private residence, as reported by 63.5% of respondents (Figure 4). A vehicle is the next most common response (13.3%) followed by an outdoor area (9.0%), other location (8.4%), bar or club (3.1%), stadium/arena (1.6%), water sports area (1.0%) and restaurant (0.1%).

Figure 4. Place of Last Drink



The place of last drink may be associated with a number of factors, one of the most common being age. Young persons under the legal drinking age are usually less likely to be consuming alcohol in a bar, club, or restaurant because of their age. For all age groups, a majority report their most common place of last drink is a private residence. Those 21 and older are more likely to report a bar or club as their place of last drink compared to younger age groups (Figure 5). A vehicle was a more common place for those under 18 compared to other age groups.

Figure 5. Place of Last Drink by Age Group



An examination of what time of day respondents were stopped and cited for MIP suggests that the most common time of stop occurs between 9pm and 3am (Figure 6). The most common day a citation was given is Saturday, followed by Friday, Sunday, and Thursday (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Hour When MIP Citation Occurred

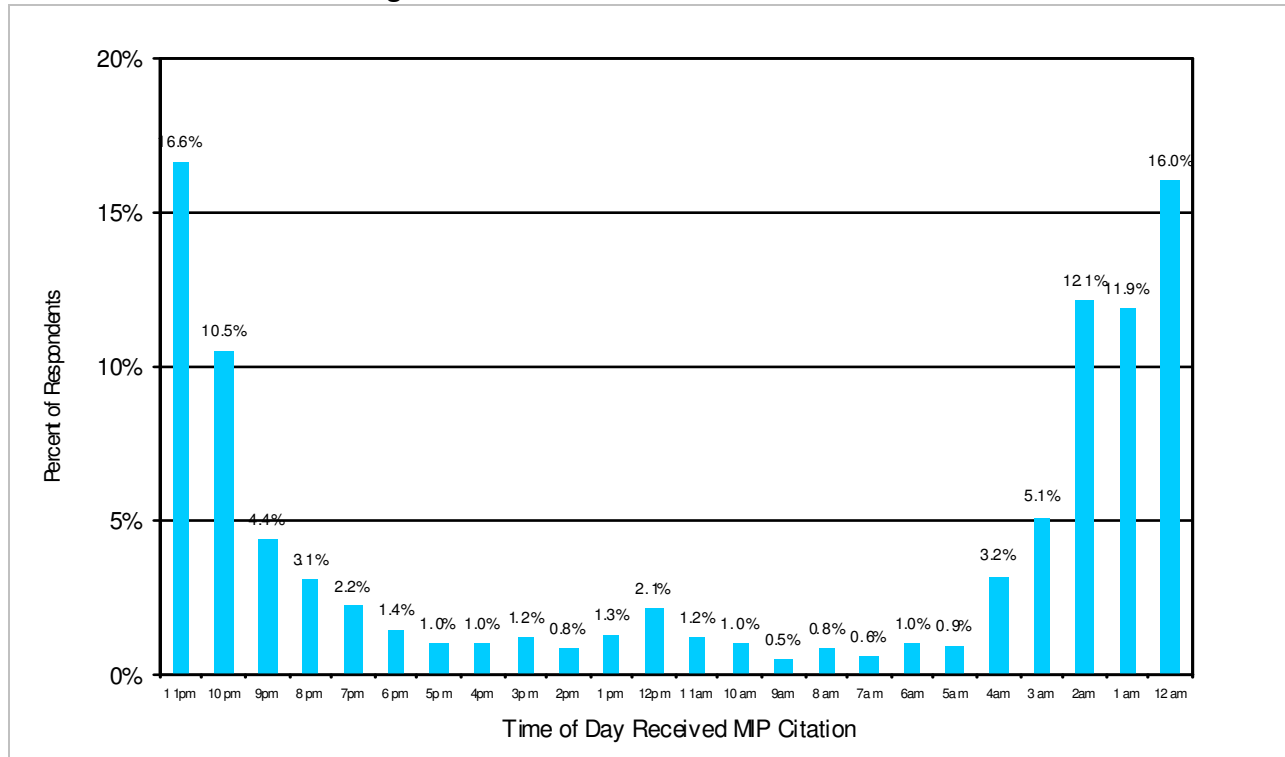
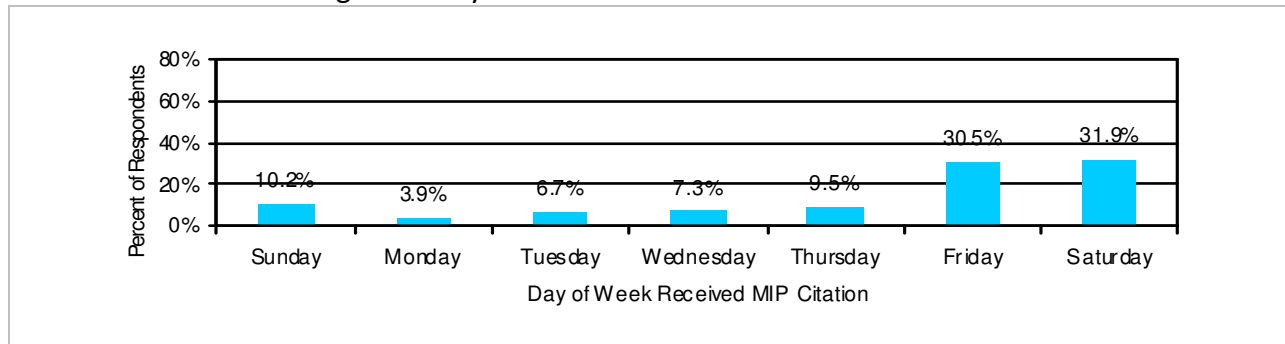
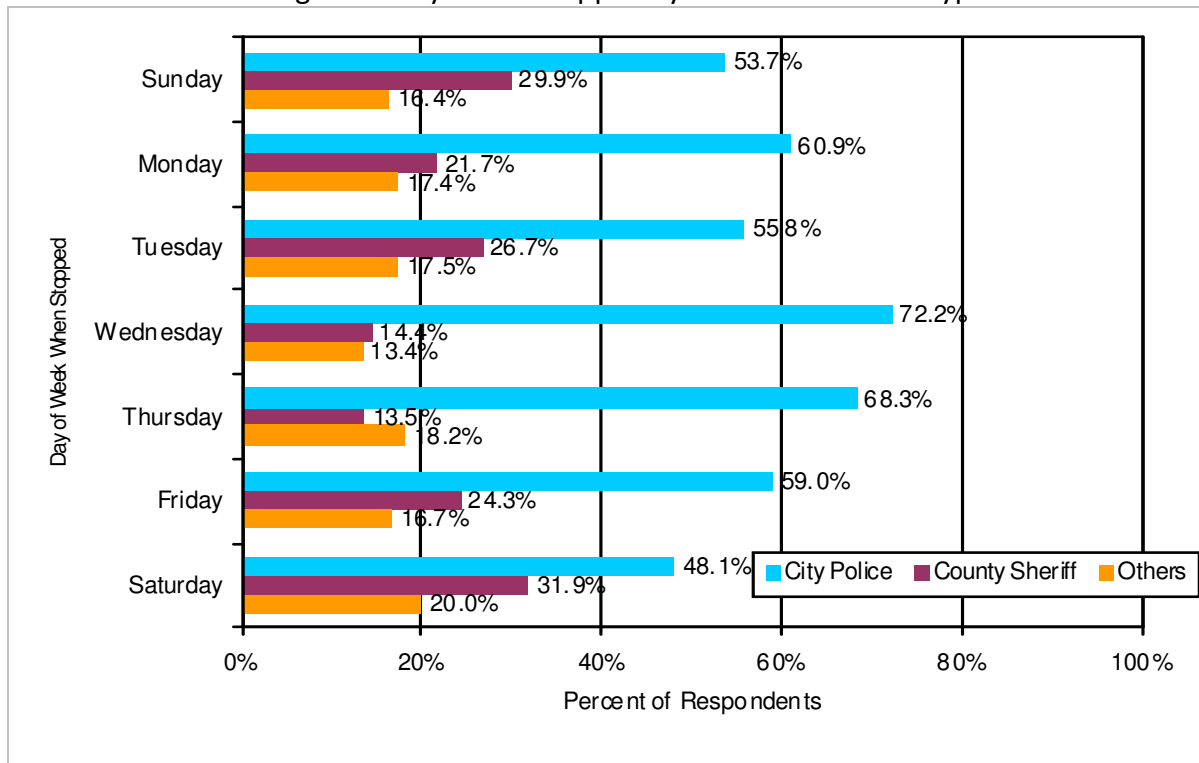


Figure 7. Day of Week When MIP Citation Occurred



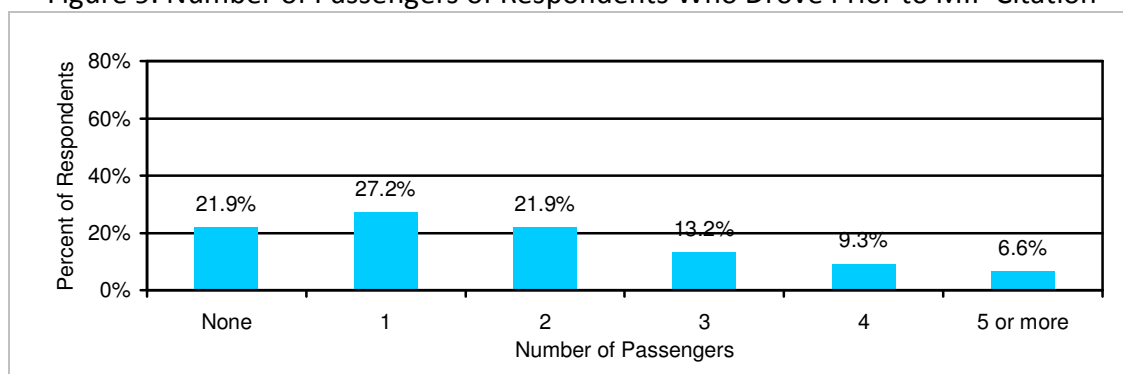
There is no relationship between the time of day and the type of law enforcement agency that stopped the respondent. There is a relationship between what type of law enforcement agency stopped the respondent and the day of the week the stop occurred (Figure 8). Overall, City Police are more likely to make the stop on every day of the week, but on Wednesday and Thursday the likelihood is much greater compared to other days, though the likelihood is less on Saturdays.

Figure 8. Day When Stopped by Law Enforcement Type



Only a minority of respondents (11.1%) report that they were driving prior to their MIP citation. Of those who were driving, almost 79.1% indicate that they were driving with a passenger (Figure 9).

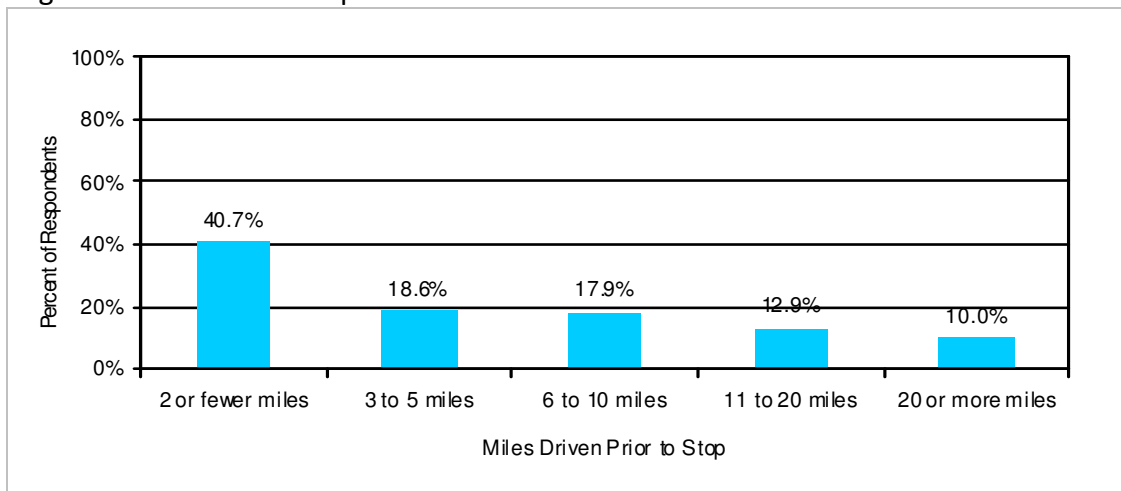
Figure 9. Number of Passengers of Respondents Who Drove Prior to MIP Citation



Of the 156 respondents who indicated that they were in a vehicle prior to their citation, 12.2% respondents report that a vehicle crash or injuries were involved. No relationship between a vehicle crash or injuries and time of the stop or day of the week.

Most who were driving prior to their MIP citation drove few miles from their place of last drink. Two out of 5 drove less than 2 miles from their place of last drink prior to being stopped by law enforcement (Figure 10).

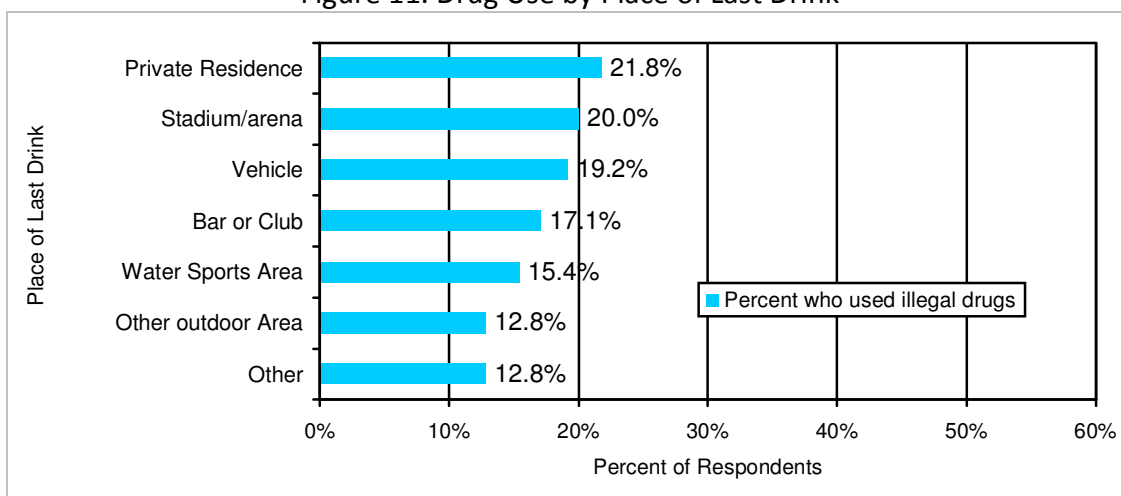
Figure 10. Percent of Respondents Who Drive 2 Miles or Less from Place of Last Drink



Consumption Data on Day of MIP Citation

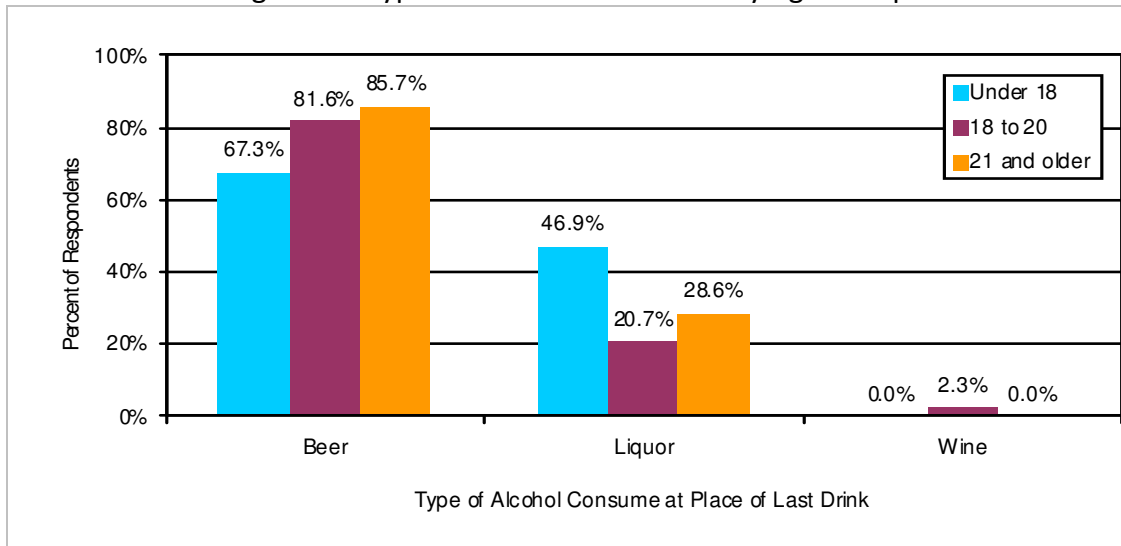
On average, respondents drink for 3.8 hours (range less than 1 hour to 24) on the day of their citation, and on that day, consume 7.0 drinks (range from 1 to 78). One in 5 report using illegal drugs on the day of their arrest (19.5%). Certain places where the last drink was consumed were associated with a greater proportion of drug use. Use of illegal drugs was most associated when the place of last drink was a private residence, stadium/area, vehicle, or bar or club (Figure 11). Restaurants, as a place of last drink, were excluded because only one individual reported that it was their place of last drink.

Figure 11. Drug Use by Place of Last Drink



Comparisons of the types of alcoholic beverage consumed by age groups found only one difference among age groups. Those under 18 were more likely to report consuming liquor at their place of last drink compared to other age groups (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Types of Alcohol Consumed by Age Group



Though most of the respondents are under the legal drinking age of 21, most indicate that they consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. Just over two-thirds of persons who received a MIP report that they consumed alcohol at least once in the past 30 days (Figure 13). A relationship between number of times a respondent consumed alcohol and their age was found. Older respondents are more likely to report consuming alcohol in the past 30 days, and more often, than those under 18 (Figure 14). No relationships were found in the amount consumed in the past 30 days and gender.

Figure 13. Alcohol Consumption in the Past 30 Days

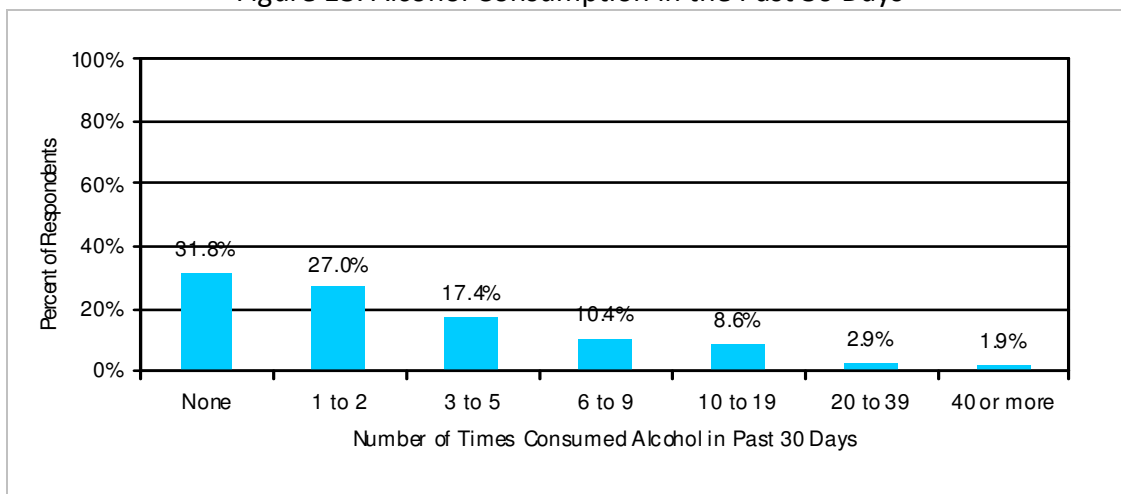
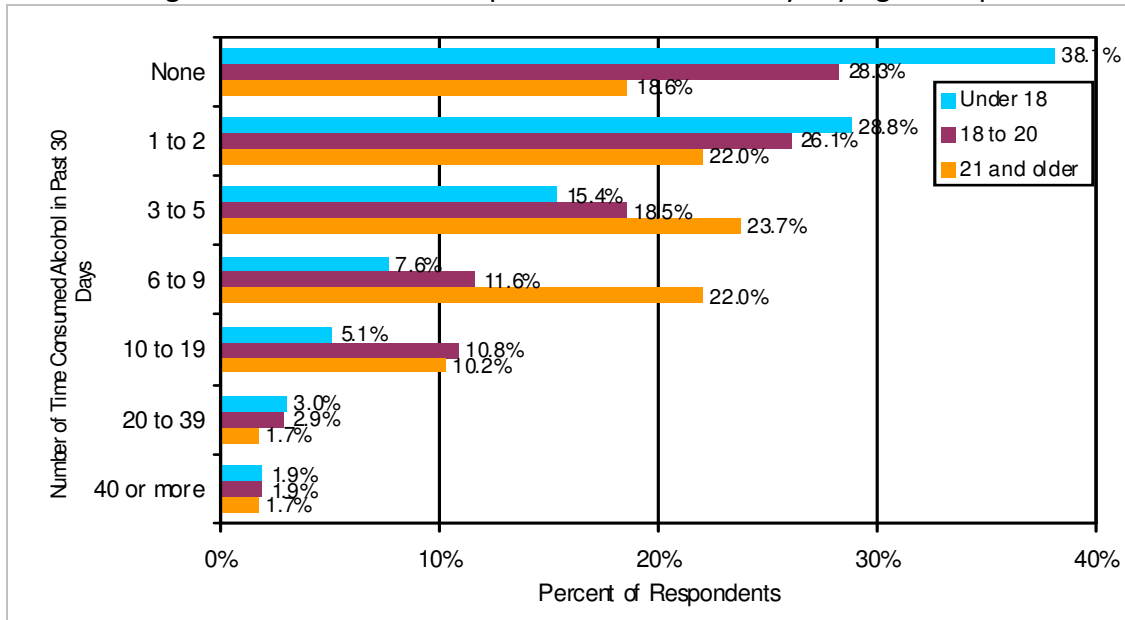


Figure 14. Alcohol Consumption in the Past 30 Days by Age Group



Binge drinking is often defined as consuming 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a row. When asked how often they consumed 5 or more alcohol drinks in a row in the last 2 weeks, a slight majority report that they did not binge drink (Figure 15). However, over 2 in 5 (44.4%) report that they binge drank at least once in the last 2 weeks. No relationship was found in the amount of binge drinking in the last 2 weeks and gender, though a relationship was found between binge drinking and age group (Figure 16). Similar to alcohol consumption, older respondents are more likely to report binge drinking in the last 2 weeks, and do so more often.

Figure 15. Binge Drinking in the Last Two Weeks

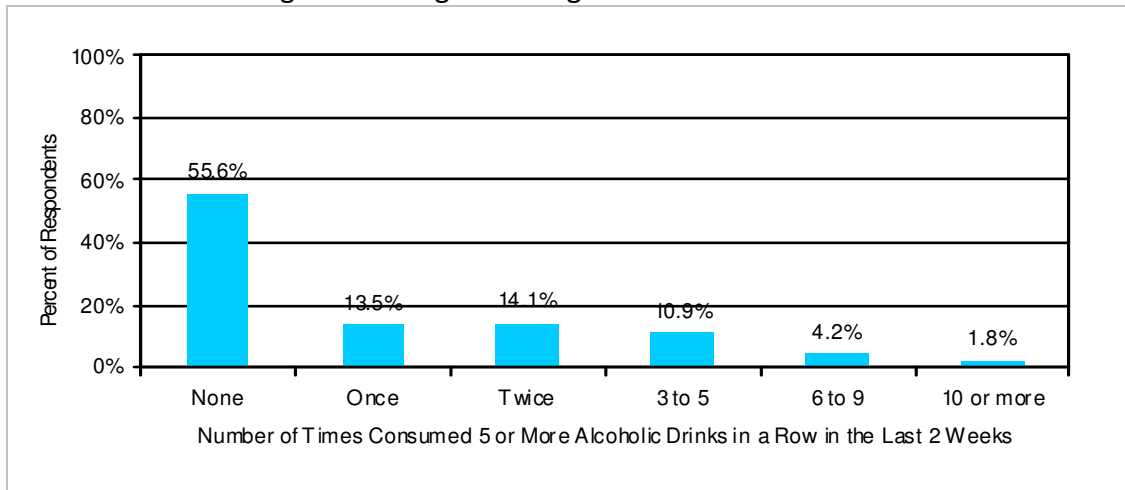
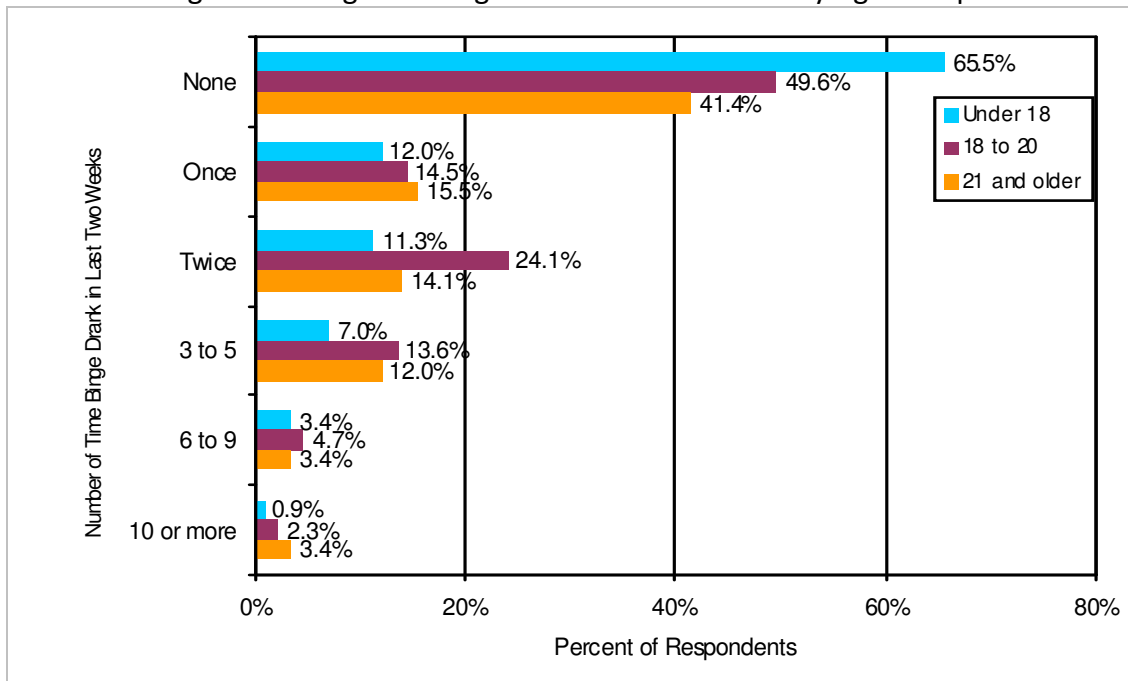


Figure 16. Binge Drinking in the Last Two Weeks by Age Group



Summary of Findings

Over 1,500 persons completed the MIP Offender Survey across programs for persons with a MIP citation across the state of Montana. In general, respondents are male and White. The average age of respondents is 18.0 years. Based on these respondents, and further data collection and analyses to confirm trends in the data, it appears that there are common aspects of MIP citations:

- City Police are more likely to have given the MIP citation.
- The most common place of last drink is a private residence.
- Most MIP citations occur between the hours of 9pm and 3am.
- For those who drive prior to their MIP citation, most drive 2 miles or less from their place of last drink.
- For those who drive prior to their MIP citation, almost 80% have a passenger with them in the vehicle.
- One in 5 report using illegal drugs on the day of the arrest.
- Underage persons are more likely to have consumed their last drink prior to their MIP citation at a private residence.
- Over two-thirds report alcohol consumption in the past 30 days.
- Two in 5 admit to binge drinking at least once in the last 2 weeks.

These data may be used to start conversations about environmental policies that may aid in the reduction of drinking and driving, particularly for underage persons. State authorities may consider engaging counties in helping to collect data more consistently so that data are more accurate for similar analyses in the future. Better data quality and a greater number of responses across all counties collected over time will make these data more reliable in order to create new policies and programs to address drinking and driving.